

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A vapor decontamination system for decontaminating a defined region, said system comprising:
 - a chamber defining a region;
 - ~~a generator for generating vaporized hydrogen peroxide from a solution of hydrogen peroxide and water;~~
 - a closed loop circulating system for supplying said vaporized hydrogen peroxide to said region, said closed loop circulating system defining a first fluid path;
 - a generator disposed within said first fluid path, said generator being operable to generate vaporized hydrogen peroxide from a solution of hydrogen peroxide and water;
 - a destroyer for breaking down said vaporized hydrogen peroxide disposed within said first fluid path upstream of said generator;
 - a bypass conduit bypassing a portion of said first fluid flow path, said destroyer being disposed in said portion of said first fluid flow path, said bypass conduit having a first end fluidly connected to said first fluid path between said region and said destroyer and a second end fluidly connected to said first flow path between said destroyer and said generator; ~~[[and]]~~
 - a valve disposed at said first end of said bypass conduit, said valve having a first position for directing fluid flowing along said first fluid flow path through said portion of said first fluid flow path, and a second position for directing fluid flowing along said first fluid flow path through said bypass conduit bypassing said portion of said first fluid flow path and said destroyer; and

a controller operable to cause substantially all of said vaporized hydrogen peroxide generated by said generator to bypass said destroyer during a predetermined phase of operation.

2. **(ORIGINAL)** A vapor decontamination system as defined in claim 1, wherein said controller is programmed to include a drying phase of operation, a conditioning phase of operation, a decontamination phase of operation and an aeration phase of operation.

3. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A vapor decontamination system as defined in claim 2, wherein said controller causes substantially all of said vaporized hydrogen peroxide to bypass said destroyer during said conditioning phase.

4. **(ORIGINAL)** A vapor decontamination system as defined in claim 1, further comprising an air dryer downstream from said destroyer.

5. **(CANCELED)**

6. **(CANCELED)**

7. **(CANCELED)**

8. **(CANCELED)**

9. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A vapor decontamination system as defined in claim ~~[[&]]~~ 4, wherein said system ~~includes an air dryer where said~~ air dryer is ~~[[part]]~~ disposed within said portion of said first fluid flow path.

10. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A closed loop, flow-through vapor phase decontamination system, comprising:

a sealable chamber having an inlet port and an outlet port;

a closed loop conduit system having a first end fluidly connected to said inlet port and a second end fluidly connected to said outlet port, said closed loop conduit system defining a first fluid path for circulating a vapor phase decontaminant through said sealable chamber;

~~a blower connected to said conduit system~~ for re-circulating a carrier gas flow into, through and out of the chamber;

a source for delivering vaporized sterilant into said carrier gas flow upstream of said inlet port;

a destroyer downstream of said outlet port for destroying the vaporized sterilant~~[[i]]~~, wherein said blower, said source for delivering vaporized sterilant, and said destroyer are disposed within a first fluid path;

a bypass conduit connected to said closed loop conduit system, said bypass conduit defining a second fluid path that bypasses a portion of said first fluid path, said destroyer being disposed in said portion of said first fluid path that is bypassed by said bypass conduit, and for directing said carrier gas flow through said closed loop conduit system and only through a second fluid path around said destroyer, said bypass conduit having one end connected to said first fluid path between said destroyer and said outlet port, wherein said blower and said source for delivering said vaporized sterilant ~~[[are]]~~ being disposed within said second fluid path;
~~[[and]]~~

a valve associated with said bypass conduit, said valve having a first position for directing said carrier gas along said first fluid path and a second position directing said carrier gas along said second fluid path; and

a controller for controlling flow through said bypass conduit the position of said valve.

11. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A system as defined in claim 10, wherein said sterilant is vaporized hydrogen peroxide.

12. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A system as defined in claim 11, wherein said controller directs flow only through said second fluid flow path during a conditioning phase of operation.

13. **(ORIGINAL)** A system as defined in claim 10, further comprising an air dryer disposed downstream from said destroyer.

14. **(ORIGINAL)** A system as defined in claim 13, wherein said blower is disposed downstream from said chamber, between said destroyer and said chamber.